THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Institutions are declared as "deemed to be universities" by the Central Government on the advice of the University Grants Commission (UGC). Activities of such "deemed to be universities" are subject to prescribed guidelines. UGC has refrained all the deemed universities from opening any new department/institution/off campus centre/off shore campus without the approval of the UGC/Ministry of Human Resource Development. Further, the institutions 'deemed to be universities' have been informed that they should not conduct any course under distance mode without the specific approval of the Joint Committee of UGC-AICTE-DEC. UGC has also put the list of institutions 'deemed to be universities' and their approved 'off-campuses' on its website and have cautioned the parents/students to be careful before taking admission in any unauthorized 'off-campus' etc.

As per information gathered from UGC, some of the deemed universities have violated the UGC guidelines and established new departments/new institutions/off campus/study centres without the approval of the UGC. The UGC has accordingly sought explanation from these institutions for further action.

**Appointment of Principals in colleges**

1122. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that about 80 per cent of the colleges affiliated to State Universities have not appointed qualified Principals causing thereby drift in standard of higher education;

(b) if so, what steps would be taken to put the educational house in order; and

(c) if so, whether the Union Government may not share the responsibility alongwith the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Appointment to the posts of Principals of colleges falls within the purview of the concerned State Governments. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has prescribed eligibility conditions for appointment of Principals and has been reiterating the need for appointing regular qualified Principals by the State Governments. The pay structure of teachers and principals in Central Universities and Colleges thereunder have since been revised by Central Government and higher academic standards have been prescribed. Benefits of pay revision are linked to fulfillment of eligibility conditions.

**Financial assistance for vocational courses**

1123. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any programme undertaken by his Ministry to give financial assistance for vocational courses in catering technology;

(b) if so, the guidelines for the financial assistance;

(c) how many States have received such assistance;

(d) whether any proposal for financial assistance from the State Government of Kerala has been received; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, envisaged financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for offering various vocational courses in their schools at higher secondary stage including courses on Hotel Management and Catering Technology. However, no assistance has been given to any State/UT since 2007-08. No proposal for financial assistance has been received from the State Government of Kerala during 2008-09.

**Establishment of model schools**

†1124. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to establish model schools in States by Government;

(b) if so, the number of proposed schools, State-wise and the basis on which this number has been determined; and

(c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The scheme envisages setting up of 6000 model schools at the block level at the rate of one school per block. The first phase of the scheme to set up 2500 schools by the State Governments in educationally backward blocks was launched in November, 2008.

**Guidelines regarding refund of fees**

1125. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the guidelines issued by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) regarding refund of fees to candidates withdrawing from the courses run by the technical institutions approved by it;

(b) whether Government is aware that large number of colleges refuse to refund fees and confiscate it when students seek withdrawal from the courses run by them; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the details of corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken for preventing such commercialization of education system?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.